

OCTOBER 2011

# Calhoun Chronicle



Juniors Kellon Johnson and Brooke Ohrt teach 5th graders about making positive decisions. Photo by Connor Dethlefs

## Red Ribbon Week educates elementary

by Connor Dethlefs  
Staff Writer

During the week of Oct. 24-28, high school POPP "teachers" are preaching the message that drugs and alcohol are bad to elementary students.

Certain high school students are selected to be Red Ribbon Week teachers. Their lessons consist of giving the students a message for the day and then playing a game to promote it further.

For example, last year elementary students were taught about the dangers of smoking. For the game there were two lines of kids: one line holding as many books as it could and one line holding nothing. Then the lines of students raced each other. The line with books represented smokers to show

them how smoking slows you down and makes you tire easily.

Junior Alina Nelson says, "My favorite lesson was the one about peer pressure. We blindfolded a kid, and he had to listen to his fellow students about where to go. One half of them were the 'bad' influence, while the others were the 'good' influence."

Red Ribbon Week doesn't just educate the elementary kids, but the high school students get a lot out of it as well.

Senior Amber Linnenbrink says, "It was fun to be interactive while we were teaching the kids. The assembly at the end of the week was really fun, too."

This week wouldn't be possible without POPP and Mrs. Hernandez. A committee of POPP members prepare the lesson plans and games for the whole

week. Red Ribbon Week has been happening for over 15 years.

Mrs. Hernandez feels like it has been very successful. She says, "It's a win-win situation. It gives the elementary kids somebody to look up to, and it's an eye-opener for the high school kids that they really are a role model to these kids."

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# 2011

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## What not to wear

By Lisa Harnack  
*Staff Writer*

A few weeks ago, we received a reminder from our school principal, Mr. Green, about the school dress code.

Mr. Green said the staff has noticed many violations to the dress code. Who are the violators? Primarily the girls.

On the agenda was the “strap rule”, which means that straps with a width of 3 inches or less are not permitted. He also noted girls have been wearing shirts that go off the shoulder, which is also a violation.

Girls were reminded that no front cleavage should be showing. “When you look down, you should see nothing but shirt,” stated Mr. Green.

There are a lot more rules in the actual handbook, but these were the ones specifically addressed.

“It’s pathetic and unfair!” Maggie Christianson, junior, exclaimed. “It doesn’t make a difference when a girl wears a strap less than 3 inches.”

Most of the rules are understandable, but some don’t really have a purpose and irritate many girls.

## FC students support the cure

By Amanda O’Keefe  
*Staff Writer*

October marks Breast Cancer Awareness month, and Fort Calhoun students have been actively involved in supporting the cure for the disease.

MCC and FBLA have joined together to support the fight against breast cancer. The clubs have sold roughly 170 pink breast cancer shirts. Mrs. Lloyd and Ms. Kotas are very happy with the success of the fundraiser.

The two clubs aren’t the only groups who have sold items to support breast cancer. The cheerleaders also sold necklaces, ribbons and balloons at the Oct. 7 football game. They raised \$115.

All the proceeds from both fundraising efforts go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Although the cause of breast cancer is unknown, we do know that a person’s age, genes, health history and diet can all contribute to breast cancer risks.

Breast cancer is most common among American women. According to [Webmd.com](http://Webmd.com), approximately one in every eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women ages 35 to 54.

There are many different ways to support breast cancer awareness. Walks, fundraisers and donations can play a very big role in helping these unfortunate women.

## Choir sings its heart out

by Adam Swartz-Brown  
*Staff Writer*

The Fall Choir Concert was on Tuesday, Oct. 11 in the high school gymnasium.

Several senior students stated, “We’re all nervous since we haven’t completely memorized one of the songs, but I think we can do it.”

Luckily, the singers had nothing to worry about. All the songs were crowd pleasing. The concert started with the show choir performing a three-song medley.

The junior high choir followed the show choir. They performed three songs beginning with “Joy to the World.” Then came a rather sad sounding song, “Can You Hear.” And last was a rather chipper “Walk With Me.”

Following the junior high, the high school choir started in a very patriotic way with “The Star Spangled Banner.” Next was “Walk in the Light,” an upbeat tune. Third in the musical set was a three-in-one song, “Animal Crackers.” A very jumpy Spanish song called “El Grillo,” or “The Cricket” in English, followed. Then came a melancholy-sounding Hebrew song called “Erev Shel Shoshanim” or “Evening of Roses.” Lastly was a medley of American songs called “Gospel America.” Sophomore Chelsea Larsen was the featured soloist.





Above: Concert choir performs one of its songs at the fall concert.  
Photo by Adam Swartz-Brown

Right: The team huddles on the mound for a quick pep talk before it defends the field. Photo courtesy of Bailey Baxter



## Volleyball: "Roller coaster" season by Maggie Christianson Staff Writer

With the 2011 volleyball season almost over, the team has had its ups and downs.

Junior Bailey Watkins says, "Our season has been like a roller coaster."

Some of the players think size is part of the downfall. Senior Amanda Volksen says, "Our disadvantage is our height. When we see other schools, we get intimidated."

Although the team is trying, the girls have been struggling due to multiple injuries and being a young team.

Coach Kotas says she's been making changes in the line up and feels she has the right mix to get back on the winning track.

In the conference tournament, the Lady Pioneers faced Bennington. After being sidelined for a month due to a back injury, Maddie Westergard, junior, was a key player in the game. Unfortunately, the team did not pull off the win.

On a positive note, the team beat Conestoga in five sets on Oct. 18.

Overall, the team has grown throughout the season. Kotas says the team is "becoming more competitive."

The team has two new additions: Assistant coaches Jason Weberg and Jennifer Tecson.

# Softball: Fair fight at Districts, season ends

by Brooke Ohrt  
Staff Writer

The Lady Pioneers battled through three close games on Thursday, Oct. 6 and Friday, Oct. 7th in Arlington for the 2011 District softball tournament.

On Thursday, the Lady Pioneers played Wahoo Neumann at noon. Being the closest game of the season, the two teams battled in an eight-inning game. The Lady Pioneers fell short and lost 5-4 in an international tie breaker.

Due to the loss, the team's next game was Friday 10 a.m. against North Bend. They quickly fell behind 2-0 in the 1st inning. The Lady Pioneers got on a hitting streak and quickly put up seven runs in the top of the 6th inning. The team held onto its lead and won 7-2.

The Lady Pioneers went back-to-back and played Wahoo Neumann again. Neumann quickly jumped on top, scoring two in the bottom of the 1st inning. Calhoun managed to squeeze in one run, only having two hits the whole game. They could not pull off the win, and the 2011 season came to an end.

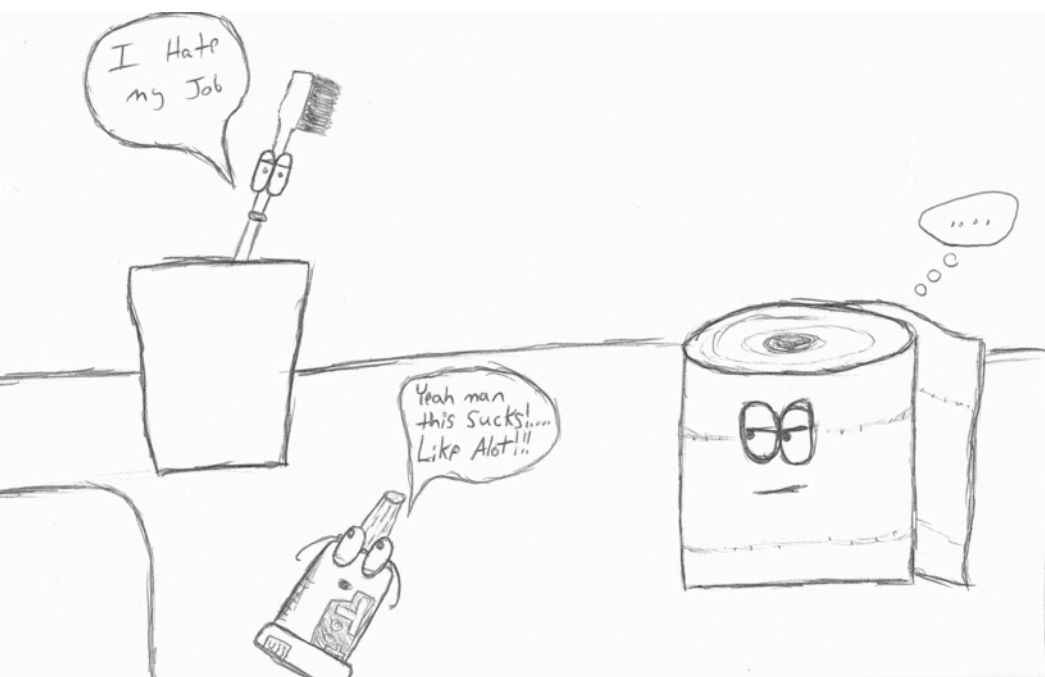
Bailey Baxter, sophomore, is upset about the season being over but is glad to finally have some spare time.

"Next season, I think we will struggle to adjust well without the seniors. But as the season goes on, we should be pretty good. One thing we need to improve on for next year though is communication and consistent batting," says Baxter.

The Lady Pioneers season record is 10-17. This is one more win than last year which accomplishes a goal the team had set. Unfortunately, the team didn't reach its other goal by making it further into the district tournament this year. Instead, they made it just as far.

"Overall, we improved throughout the season. The bottom of the batting lineup really peaked at the end of the season, which made a huge difference. I'm disappointed we lost some games that we were very capable of winning, but I'm very excited for next season," Coach Jessica Hall concludes.

Seniors Josie Babin, Stephenie Dale, Alyssa Dippel and Emily Lewis will be greatly missed for the upcoming season.



Comic by Evan Melbourne

## Mascot brings school spirit

by Stephenie Dale  
Staff Writer

Wouldn't athletic games be dull without something to pump up the audience? Sure, we have the cheerleaders helping us cheer on the athletes and get the crowd riled up, but our Pioneer mascot is helping the crowd get into the game, too.

Most people know our mascot is junior Wayne Stratbucker. "I like to wear the mascot when it's cold outside, but when it's higher than 50 degrees, it gets hot fast. It accumulates sweat on my chin like a pool." Sounds like a lot of work, but he agrees that it gets the audience into the games.

2011 alumna April Stevens is the reason for our mascot. For Girl Scouts, she had to complete a fundraising activity. In the spring of 2010

our school held a fundraiser for the mascot. We even got to vote on which costume to buy.

Thanks to Stevens' project, we've had our mascot for a little over a year, and it's already paying off with our school spirit.



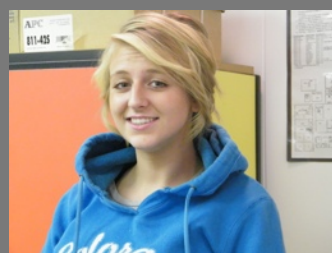
Wayne Stratbucker, the man in the mascot costume, shows off his school spirit by pumping up the crowd. Photo courtesy of Carly Stratbucker

## We Ask, You Tell

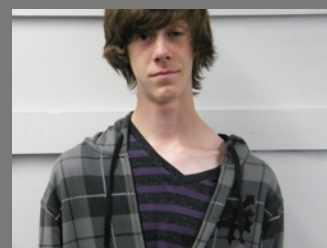
What are you going to do or be for Halloween?



"Batman."  
-Michael Larsen, freshman



"I'm going to be a hobo."  
-Brianna Namuth, sophomore



"I'm going to be the person in a gas mask and cape."  
-Connor Schlehuder, junior



"I don't know. I don't really celebrate it. But if so, Rapunzel."  
-Ali Boyd, senior